

Introduced by Senator Ortiz

February 12, 1999

An act to add and repeal Article 3 (commencing with Section 124260) of Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to mental health, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 405, as introduced, Ortiz. Suicide treatment pilot program.

Existing law provides for suicide prevention counseling services in a variety of contexts.

This bill would, until January 1, 2005, authorize the University of California to establish and implement a suicide treatment pilot project in cooperation with the State Department of Mental Health that would operate for a period of 3 years.

The bill would require the pilot project to have certain goals and to focus on specified groups. It would also require the department to provide an independent evaluation of the pilot project.

The bill would appropriate \$1,750,000 from the General Fund for allocation as provided by the bill to the department and the Regents of the University of California in order to implement the bill.

The bill would also make certain legislative findings and declarations regarding suicide.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as
2 follows:

3 (a) Suicide is a problem in California as well as
4 throughout the United States, claiming more than 31,000
5 lives annually. Suicide attempts exceed 750,000 every
6 year.

7 (b) Actual incidences of suicide and attempts at
8 suicide may be higher than documented because of the
9 current failure to report or failure to maintain records of
10 these incidences.

11 (c) Teens are very vulnerable to suicide. The suicide
12 rate among young persons has tripled within the last 40
13 years and exceeds that of homicide and AIDS-related
14 deaths.

15 (d) Extreme social, academic, and environmental
16 pressures are the leading causes of teen suicide.

17 (e) Suicide has long been recognized as a social taboo.
18 However, suicide is a medically based social epidemic
19 that needs to be addressed.

20 (f) Without the proper infrastructure and treatment
21 programs, occurrences of suicide are likely to rise.

22 (g) There exists little research evaluating effective
23 treatment and preventive measures for suicide.

24 (h) Persons suffering from attempted suicide should
25 have access to treatment facilities that are
26 comprehensive enough to treat diverse groups of
27 individuals and to a program that could be implemented
28 in various communities.

29 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 124260)
30 is added to Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the
31 Health and Safety Code, to read:

32

33 Article 3. Suicide Treatment

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35 124260. (a) (1) The University of California may
36 establish and implement a research pilot project for the
37 treatment of suicide, in cooperation with the State
38 Department of Mental Health. The research pilot project



1 shall be implemented by contract and shall operate for a
2 period of three years.

3 (2) The treatment of suicide for purposes of the
4 research pilot project established pursuant to this section
5 shall focus on teenagers, adults, older adults, and high risk
6 ethnic groups.

7 (b) The goals of the pilot project shall be as follows:

8 (1) To develop a treatment program for suicide, with
9 particular emphasis on treatment techniques and
10 aftercare services at reasonable costs that may be
11 integrated with county mental health.

12 (2) (A) To establish an outpatient center for suicide
13 treatment, employing the treatment and aftercare
14 models developed pursuant to paragraph (1) and
15 focusing on the target groups listed in paragraph (2) of
16 subdivision (a).

17 (B) The center shall be located in an area that has a
18 high suicide rate and where the average annual personal
19 income is within 120 percent of the federal poverty level.

20 (C) The center shall collaborate with the host
21 counties, as directed by the department.

22 (D) The center shall record and track programmatic
23 and cost data to determine actual costs, client outcomes,
24 and other analysis deemed appropriate by the
25 department, whether performed by the department or
26 by a contractor performing the independent evaluation.

27 (3) To develop implementation and practice
28 guidebooks generally appropriate to the replication of
29 the pilot project model services in county mental health.
30 The guidebooks shall be submitted to the department for
31 review and approval prior to any release.

32 (c) The department shall provide an independent
33 evaluation of the services provided pursuant to this
34 section and the associated costs. The evaluation shall
35 cover the duration of the pilot program and six months
36 thereafter. The department shall either conduct, or
37 contract out for the conducting of, the independent
38 evaluation. The independent evaluation shall include,
39 but not be limited to, the following activities:

1 (1) Developing uniform data collection and reporting
2 measures applicable to pertinent cost, treatment, and
3 outcome results.

4 (2) Collecting, analyzing, and reporting pertinent
5 cost, treatment, and outcome results for the outpatient
6 center for the period of time as directed by the
7 department, and comparing those results to other
8 applicable models for which comparable data may be
9 obtainable.

10 (3) Offering technical assistance to the outpatient
11 center in the collection and recording of the necessary
12 data and to the department in the use and applicability
13 of the results, as needed.

14 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until
15 January 1, 2005, and as of that date is repealed, unless a
16 later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1,
17 2005, deletes or extends that date.

18 SEC. 3. There is hereby appropriated from the
19 General Fund the sum of one million seven hundred fifty
20 thousand dollars (\$1,750,000) for distribution as follows:

21 (a) To the State Department of Mental Health for
22 purposes of providing an independent evaluation
23 pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 124260 of the
24 Health and Safety Code, fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)
25 for each of the three years of the pilot project.

26 (b) To the Regents of the University of California for
27 purposes of implementing Article 3 (commencing with
28 Section 124260) of Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of
29 the Health and Safety Code, the following amounts:

30 (1) For year one of the pilot project, four hundred fifty
31 thousand dollars (\$450,000).

32 (2) For year two of the pilot project, four hundred fifty
33 thousand dollars (\$450,000).

34 (3) For year three of the pilot project, seven hundred
35 thousand dollars (\$700,000).

